

Senate Resolution 51 - Introduced

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S.R. _____ H.R. _____

1 1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. ____
1 2 BY DVORSKY and CONNOLLY
1 3 A Senate Resolution providing for the formation of a
1 4 committee by the legislative council to conduct an
1 5 examination of public financing for state and local
1 6 elections.
1 7 WHEREAS, a fundamental tenet of democracy is
1 8 government "of, by and for the people"; and
1 9 WHEREAS, our political system at all levels is
1 10 increasingly dominated by the influence of large sums
1 11 of private money that finance electoral campaigns, and
1 12 large donations that increasingly seem to be an
1 13 integral part of lawmaking and public policy
1 14 development; and
1 15 WHEREAS, a number of states, including Arizona and
1 16 Maine, have adopted systems of clean elections which
1 17 provide full public financing for primary and general
1 18 campaigns to candidates who opt to "run clean" and who
1 19 qualify by gathering a set number of signatures in
1 20 their district along with a small qualifying and
1 21 certified contribution by each signer, and who then
1 22 agree to accept no additional private contributions
1 23 and not to use any of their personal wealth; NOW
1 24 THEREFORE,
1 25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the legislative
1 26 council is requested to appoint an interim committee
1 27 to study the projected costs and sources of revenue
1 28 that could be made available to support a system of
1 29 public financing for state and local elections, and to
1 30 study legislation for voter-owned Iowa clean elections
2 1 and develop recommendations related to the specifics
2 2 of a clean elections statute, including but not
2 3 limited to the appropriate voluntary spending limit
2 4 for campaigns of each type, the eligibility threshold
2 5 for qualifying for public funds, the financing
2 6 mechanisms and sources, and the legal requirements for
2 7 establishing such a policy; and
2 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee be
2 9 composed of 10 members, representing both political
2 10 parties and both houses of the general assembly, with
2 11 five members to be members of the senate and with five
2 12 members to be members of the house of representatives;
2 13 and
2 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the interim study
2 15 committee issue a report of recommendations to the
2 16 general assembly by December 15, 2007.
2 17 LSB 2943SS 82
2 18 jr:rj/gg/14